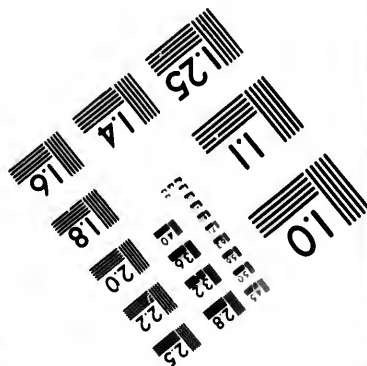
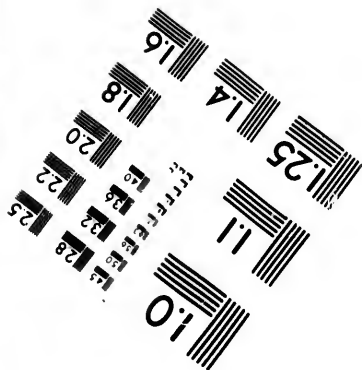
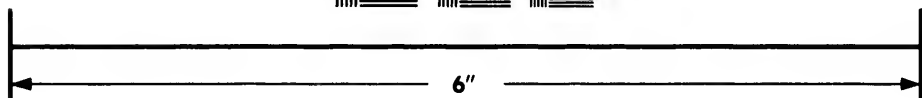
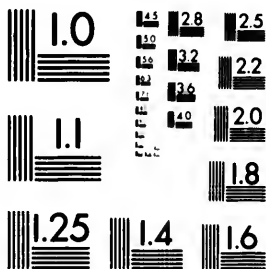


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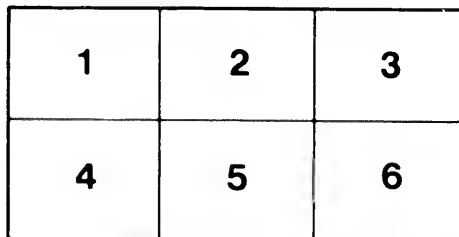
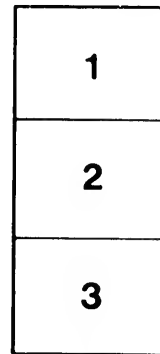
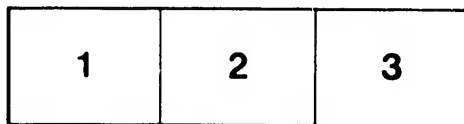
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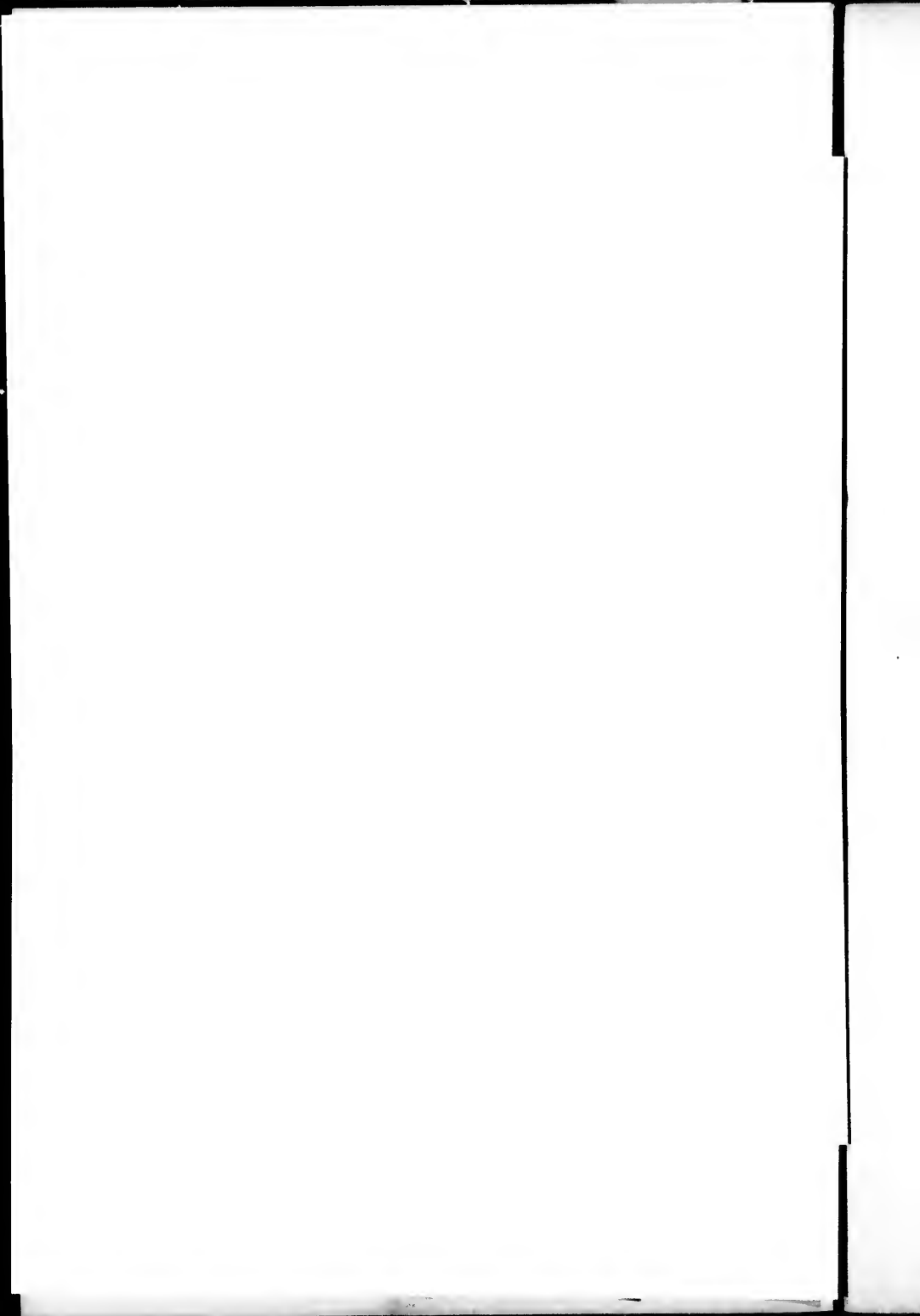
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CONFIDENTIAL.

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**PART IX.**

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**FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE**

RESPECTING THE

BOUNDARY BETWEEN THE BRITISH POSSESSIONS IN  
NORTH AMERICA

AND THE

**TERRITORY OF ALASKA.**

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1897.

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CONFIDENTIAL.

Further Correspondence respecting the Boundary between the  
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PART IX.

No. 1.

*Sir J. Pouncefote to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received January 11, 1897.)*

(No. 360.)

My Lord,

*Washington, December 28, 1896.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 299 of the 25th October last, respecting the proposal of a new Convention to settle the portion of the boundary between Canada and Alaska running along the 141st meridian, I have the honour to transmit, herewith, copy of a note from the United States' Secretary of State, to whom I addressed a further note on the 30th ultimo, pressing for a reply to my note to Mr. Olney of the 25th October, copy of which was inclosed in my despatch No. 299 to your Lordship.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE.

Inclosure in No. 1.

*Mr. Olney to Sir J. Pouncefote.*

Excellency,

*Washington, December 26, 1896.*

ACKNOWLEDGING your note of the 30th November, requesting that I expedite the reply to your previous note of the 25th October, respecting the proposal of a new Convention to settle the location of the 141st meridian for the demarcation of the Alaskan Boundary, I have the honour to state that your note of the 25th October was having consideration, and progress has been made towards the preparation of a draft Convention for locating monuments on the 141st meridian, in accordance with the suggestion of the Canadian Government, communicated in your above-mentioned note. It is thought that this draft Convention may be ready to submit to your Excellency in a few days.

I have, &c.

(Signed) RICHARD OLNEY.

No. 2.

*Sir J. Pouncefote to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received January 18.)*

(No. 5.)

My Lord,

*Washington January 6, 1897.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 360 of the 28th ultimo and to previous correspondence respecting the proposal of a new Convention to settle the portion of the boundary between Canada and Alaska running along the 141st meridian, I have the honour to transmit herewith copy of a note which I have received from the



Secretary of State, forwarding a draft Convention, which has been prepared by the Department of State for the consideration of Her Majesty's Government.

Mr. Olney desires to know whether the draft Convention, copy of which is inclosed, meets with the approval of Her Majesty's Government.

I have forwarded a copy of the draft Convention to the Governor-General of Canada in order to avoid delay, as the Government of the Dominion are anxious that the arrangements for the joint survey should be completed as early as possible.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 2.

*Mr. Olney to Sir J. Pauncefote.*

Excellency,

*Department of State, Washington, January 5, 1897.*

REFERRING to my note of the 26th ultimo to you, relative to the proposed Convention for locating monuments on the 141st meridian, I now have the honour to transmit to you herewith a draft Convention which has been prepared by the Department for the consideration of Her Majesty's Government.

If the draft shall be found to meet the views of your Government, the Department will take pleasure in preparing engrossed copies in duplicate for signature.

I have, &c.

(Signed) RICHARD OLNEY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 2.

*Draft Convention between the United States of America and Her Majesty the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, for the demarcation of so much of the 141st meridian of West Longitude as may be necessary for the determination of the Boundary between their respective Possessions in North America.*

WHEREAS by a Treaty between the United States of America and His Majesty the Emperor of all the Russias, for the cession of the Russian possessions in North America to the United States, concluded the 30th March, 1867, the most northerly part of the boundary-line between the said Russian possessions and those of Her Britannic Majesty, as established by the prior Convention between Russia and Great Britain of the 26th (16th) February, 1825, is defined as following the 141st degree of longitude west from Greenwich, beginning at the point of intersection of the said 141st degree of west longitude with a certain line drawn parallel with the coast, and thence continuing from the said point of intersection upon the said meridian of the 141st degree in its prolongation as far as the Frozen Ocean;

And whereas, the location of said meridian of the 141st degree of west longitude between the terminal points thereof defined in said Treaties, is dependent upon the scientific ascertainment of convenient points along the said meridian and the survey of the country intermediate between such points, involving no question of interpretation of the aforesaid Treaties but merely the determination of such points and their connecting lines by the ordinary processes of observation and survey conducted by competent astronomers, engineers, and surveyors;

And whereas, such determination has not hitherto been made by a joint survey as is requisite in order to give complete effect to said Treaties, although independent observations and surveys have been conducted from time to time, and are now being conducted, by expert officers in the service of their respective Governments along the said meridian or the 141st degree of west longitude, resulting in the collection of scientific data and the establishment of stations on or near said meridian, of which the two Governments may avail themselves for the purpose of accomplishing the object of this Convention;

The United States of America and Her Majesty the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, being equally desirous to provide for the

removal of any possible cause of difference between their respective Governments in regard to the location of the said 141st meridian of west longitude, have resolved to conclude a Convention to that end, and for that purpose have appointed as their respective Plenipotentiaries,

The President of the United States of America,  
and Her Majesty the Queen of the United Kingdom  
of Great Britain and Ireland;

Who, after having communicated to each other their respective full powers, which were found to be in due and proper form, have agreed to and concluded the following Articles :—

#### ARTICLE I.

Each Government shall appoint one Commissioner, with whom may be associated such surveyors, astronomers, and other assistants as each Government may elect.

The Commissioners shall, at as early a period as practicable, proceed to trace and mark under their joint direction, and by joint operations in the field, so much of the 141st meridian of west longitude as is necessary to be defined for the purpose of determining the exact limits of the territory ceded to the United States by the Treaty between the United States and Russia of the 30th March, 1867.

Inasmuch as the summit of Mount St. Elias, although not ascertained to lie in fact upon said 141st meridian, is so nearly coincident therewith that it may conveniently be taken as a visible landmark whereby the initial part of said meridian shall be established, it is agreed that the Commissioners, should they conclude that it is advisable so to do, may deflect the most southerly portion of said line so as to make the same range with the summit of Mount St. Elias, such deflection not to extend more than 20 geographical miles northwardly from the initial point.

#### ARTICLE II.

The data relating to determinations already made at this time by either of the two Governments concerned, of points on or near the 141st meridian for the purpose of fixing its position, shall be submitted by each Government to the Commissioners, who shall decide which of the results of the determinations shall be adopted by them.

In case of disagreement between the Commissioners as to the correct geographical co-ordinates of one and the same point determined by either of the two Governments separately, a position midway between the two locations in question of the 141st meridian shall be adopted, provided the discrepancy between them shall not exceed 1,000 feet.

In case of a greater discrepancy a new joint determination shall be made by the Commissioners.

#### ARTICLE III.

The location of the 141st meridian, as determined hereunder, shall be marked by intervisible objects, natural or artificial, at such distances apart as the Commissioners shall agree upon, and by such additional marks as they shall deem necessary, and the line when and where thus marked, in whole or in part, shall be deemed to permanently define for all international purposes the 141st meridian mentioned in the Treaty of the 30th March, 1867, between the United States and Russia, and in the Treaty of the 15th (28th) February, 1825, between Great Britain and Russia.

The location of the marks shall be described by such views, maps, and other means as the Commissioners shall decide upon, and duplicate records of these descriptions shall be attested by the Commissioners jointly, and be by them deposited with their respective Governments, together with their final Report hereinafter mentioned.

#### ARTICLE IV.

Each Government shall bear the expenses incident to the employment of its own appointees, and of the operations conducted by them, but the cost of material used in permanently marking the meridian, and of its transportation, shall be borne jointly and equally by the two Governments.

## ARTICLE V.

The Commissioners shall diligently prosecute the work to its completion, and they shall submit to their respective Governments from time to time, and at least once in every calendar year, a joint report of progress, and a final comprehensive Report upon the completion of the whole work.

The present Convention shall be duly ratified by the President of the United States of America, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate thereof, and by Her Britannic Majesty, and the ratifications shall be exchanged at Washington or in London as soon as possible within twelve months from the date hereof.

In faith whereof we, the respective Plenipotentiaries, have signed this Convention, and have hereunto affixed our seals.

Done in duplicate in Washington the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 189

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## No. 3.

*Sir J. Pauncefote to the Marquess of Salisbury.*—(Received January 20.)

(No. 14.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

*Washington, January 20, 1897.*

MR. OLNEY urges, for political reasons, that the matter of the Alaskan Convention for determining the Meridian be proceeded with with the utmost expedition.

The question was referred to in my despatch No. 5 to your Lordship of the 5th instant.

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## No. 4.

*Foreign Office to Colonial Office.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, January 22, 1897.*

WITH reference to my letter of the 11th November, I am directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to transmit to you copies of further despatches from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Washington relating to the Alaska Boundary.\*

In the latter of these despatches Sir J. Pauncefote incloses a draft Convention, which has been prepared in the Department of State, for the consideration of Her Majesty's Government.

A telegram has also been received from Sir Julian, stating that, for political reasons, Mr. Olney urges that the utmost expedition should be employed in the matter, and I am to suggest that the Governor-General of Canada should be informed by telegraph of Mr. Olney's wishes in this respect.

It will be observed that the draft Convention has already been communicated to the Canadian Government, who appear to be likewise anxious that the arrangements for determining the meridian should be completed without delay.

I am, &c.

(Signed) F. H. VILLIERS.

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## No. 5.

*Colonial Office to Foreign Office.*—(Received January 25.)

Sir,

*Downing Street, January 23, 1897.*

IN reply to your letter of the 22nd instant respecting the Alaska boundary question, I am directed by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain to acquaint you, for the information of the Marquess of Salisbury, that the matter, in his opinion, is one which must be left mainly with the Canadian Government.

He proposes, therefore, if Lord Salisbury sees no objection, to telegraph to the Governor-General as in the inclosed draft.

I am to take the opportunity of transmitting copy of a despatch and its inclosures, received from Lord Aberdeen, in which his Ministers urge an early settlement of the question.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) JOHN BRAMSTON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 5.

*Draft Telegram from Mr. Chamberlain to the Earl of Aberdeen.*

TELEGRAPH views of your Ministers as to draft Convention, Alaska boundary, proposed by United States' Government. If they have serious objection to draft Convention, would suggest Delegate should be sent to discuss question with Pauncefote.

Inclosure 2 in No. 5.

*The Earl of Aberdeen to Mr. Chamberlain.*

Sir, *Government House, Ottawa, January 7, 1897.*

WITH reference to your Confidential despatch of the 19th November last, on the subject of the Alaska boundary, I have the honour to inclose copy of an approved Minute of the Privy Council, from which you will observe that Ministers are anxious to learn whether the United States' Government will concur in the proposal to commence operations for the demarcation of the 141st meridian as early as possible next spring.

I have communicated a copy of the Minute of Council to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Washington with a request that he would ascertain the views of the United States' Government.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) ABERDEEN.

Inclosure 3 in No. 5.

*Extract from a Report of the Committee of the Honourable the Privy Council, approved by the Governor-General on the 24th December, 1896.*

THE Committee of the Privy Council have had under consideration a Colonial Office despatch, hereto attached, dated the 13th November, 1896, transmitting a copy of a despatch, dated the 25th October, 1896, with its inclosures, from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Washington to the Marquess of Salisbury, respecting the Alaska boundary.

The Minister of the Interior, to whom the said despatch and its inclosures were referred, submits that concurrence with the proposal of the Secretary of State of the United States to divide the difference between Mr. Ogilvie's and Messrs. Magrath and Turner's determinations of the crossings of the 141st meridian by the Yukon River and Forty Mile Creek having been expressed by your Excellency in Council on the 28th September, 1896, it is now very desirable that the Canadian Government should be informed at the earliest possible date of the decision which has been reached by the Government of the United States as to the proposal contained in the last paragraph of the approved Minute of Council of the 28th September, 1896, namely, that steps should be taken by the two Governments to have operations upon the ground for the demarcation of the 141st meridian on either side of the points agreed upon at the above-cited river-crossings commenced as early as possible next spring.

The Minister further submits that if this proposal meets with the concurrence of the Government of the United States, negotiations between the Governments with a view to the conclusion of the arrangements for the joint survey would be initiated without delay.

The Committee advise that your Excellency be moved to communicate with Her Majesty's Ambassador to the United States, in the sense of this Minute.

All which is respectfully submitted for your Excellency's approval.

(Signed) JOHN J. MCGEE,  
Clerk of the Privy Council.

No. 6.

*Colonial Office to Foreign Office.—(Received January 25.)*

Sir,

*Downing Street, January 25, 1897.*

WITH reference to the letter from this Department of the 23rd instant, respecting the Alaska boundary question, I am directed by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain to transmit to you, for the information of the Marquess of Salisbury, copies of two telegrams from the Governor-General of Canada, stating that his Ministers approve of the draft Convention proposed by the United States' Government.

In these circumstances, Mr. Chamberlain presumes that instructions will be sent to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Washington, that Her Majesty's Government concur in the views of the Dominion Government, and that he is authorized to sign the Convention.

I am, &c.

(Signed) JOHN BRAMSTON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 6.

*The Earl of Aberdeen to Mr. Chamberlain.*

(Telegraphic.)

*(Received January 23, 1897, 6:55 P.M.)*

DRAFT of Convention for determination of Alaskan meridian approved of and accepted by Dominion Government. Despatch follows by mail.

Inclosure 2 in No. 6.

*The Earl of Aberdeen to Mr. Chamberlain.*

(Telegraphic.)

*(Received January 23, 1897.)*

IN answer to your telegram, draft of Convention, Alaska, approved to-day. Have informed Pauncefote.

No. 7.

*The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir J. Pauncefote.*

(No. 16.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

*Foreign Office, January 26, 1897.*

ALASKA Boundary: Your telegram No. 14 of the 20th instant.

The approval of the draft Convention by the Canadian Government has the concurrence of Her Majesty's Government.

I authorize you to sign the Convention.

No. 8.

*Foreign Office to Colonial Office.*

Sir,

*Foreign Office, January 28, 1897.*

WITH reference to your letters of the 23rd and 25th instant, respecting the Alaska Boundary, I am directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to inform you that, in accordance with Mr. Secretary Chamberlain's suggestion, his Lordship informed Her Majesty's Ambassador at Washington by telegraph on the 26th instant that Her Majesty's Government concur in the approval by the Canadian Government of the draft Convention, and that his Excellency is authorized to sign it.

I am, &amp;c.

(Signed) F. H. VILLIERS.

No. 9.

*Sir J. Pauncefote to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received February 13.)*

(No. 32.)

My Lord,

*Washington, January 30, 1897.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 16 of the 26th instant, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that the Alaskan Convention between Great Britain and the United States was signed to-day by Mr. Olney and myself.

I have retained the duplicate original of the Convention in case of any amendments being suggested previous to its ratification by the Senate which may be acceptable to Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &amp;c.

(For Sir Julian Pauncefote),  
(Signed) GOUGIL.

No. 10.

*Colonial Office to Foreign Office.—(Received February 13.)*

Sir,

*Downing Street, February 12, 1897.*

I AM directed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies to transmit to you, for the information of the Marquess of Salisbury, with reference to the letter from your Department of the 5th instant, a copy of a despatch from the Governor-General of Canada on the subject of the Alaska boundary.

I am, &amp;c.

(Signed) R. H. MEADE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 10.

*The Earl of Aberdeen to Mr. Chamberlain.*

Sir,

*Government House, Ottawa, January 26, 1897.*

WITH reference to my despatch of the 12th instant relative to the draft Convention proposed by the United States' Government for the demarcation of a portion of the Alaska boundary, I have the honour to forward herewith copy of an approved Minute of the Privy Council, from which you will observe that the draft Convention meets with the full approval of my Ministers.

I have communicated copy of the Minute of Council to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Washington.

I have, &amp;c.

(Signed) ABERDEEN.

## Inclosure 2 in No. 10.

*Extract from a Report of the Committee of the Honourable the Privy Council, approved by the Governor-General on the 23rd January, 1897.*

THE Committee of the Privy Council have had under consideration a despatch, hereto attached, dated the 6th January, 1897, from Her Majesty's Ambassador to the United States, forwarding copy of a draft Convention which has been prepared by the State Department of the United States on the subject of the delimitation of that portion of the boundary between Canada and the territories of the United States in Alaska which lies between the point of intersection of the 141st degree of west longitude with a certain line drawn parallel to the coast and the Frozen Ocean, according to the definition of that boundary contained in the third paragraph of the Treaty of St. Petersburg, in respect to which it is accurately stated in the preamble that no question of interpretation of the Treaty is involved, but merely the scientific ascertainment of convenient points along the meridian and the survey of the country intermediate between such points by the ordinary processes of observation and survey.

The Committee, on the recommendation of the Minister of the Interior, advises that your Excellency be moved to inform the Right Honourable the Marquess of Salisbury and Her Majesty's Ambassador to the United States that the draft Convention as submitted has been approved and accepted by the Government of Canada.

All of which is respectfully submitted for your Excellency's approval.

(Signed) JOHN J. MCGEE,  
Clerk of the Privy Council.

## No. 11.

*Colonial Office to Foreign Office.—(Received July 14.)*

Sir,

*Downing Street, July 13, 1897.*

WITH reference to your letter of the 8th March and previous correspondence on the subject of the Alaska Boundary Convention, I am directed by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain to transmit to you, to be laid before the Marquess of Salisbury, the accompanying copy of a despatch from the Governor-General of Canada transmitting an approved Minute of the Dominion Privy Council respecting the amendment of the Convention which is said to be contemplated by the United States' Senate with regard to that part of it which defines a portion of the line by reference to the Peak of Mount St. Elias.

Mr. Chamberlain proposes, with Lord Salisbury's concurrence, to reply that if any modification of the Treaty is made by the United States' Senate the Dominion Government will be consulted before it is agreed to by Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) JOHN BRAMSTON.

## Inclosure 1 in No. 11.

*The Earl of Aberdeen to Mr. Chamberlain.*

Sir,

*Government House, Ottawa, Canada, June 23, 1897.*

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith, for your consideration, a copy of an approved Minute of the Privy Council representing that information has been received that an amendment to the Convention for the delimitation of the Alaska boundary is in contemplation by the United States' Senate which may seriously alter the effect of that part of the Convention which relates to the defining of a portion of the line by reference to the Peak of Mount St. Elias.

You will observe that Ministers would be glad, therefore, to be afforded an opportunity of considering any amendments added to the Treaty before its final ratification.

I have, &c.  
(Signed) ABERDEEN.

## Inclosure 2 in No. 11.

*Extract from a Report of the Committee of the Honourable the Privy Council, approved by the Governor-General on the 12th June, 1897.*

ON a Report dated the 5th June, 1897, from the Minister of the Interior, submitting, with reference to the Convention providing for the delimitation of the 141st meridian between Canada and the United States' territory of Alaska, which has been signed by Her Majesty's Ambassador at Washington and the Secretary of State of the United States, and has been transmitted to the Senate of the United States for their action thereon, that, according to information received, an amendment is in contemplation which may seriously alter the effect of that part of the Convention which relates to the defining of a portion of the line by reference to the Peak of Mount St. Elias.

The Minister further submits that the approval of the draft Convention signified by your Excellency in Council on the 23rd January, 1897, presupposed no essential change in the terms of the Convention.

The Committee, on the recommendation of the Minister of the Interior, advise that your Excellency be moved to inform the Most Honourable the Marquess of Salisbury and Her Majesty's Ambassador to the United States of the desire of the Government of Canada to be afforded an opportunity of considering any amendments added to the Treaty before it is finally ratified.

All which is respectfully submitted for your Excellency's approval.

(Signed) JOHN J. MCGEE,  
*Clerk of the Privy Council.*

## No. 12.

*Foreign Office to Colonial Office.*

*Foreign Office, July 17, 1897.*

Sir,

I LAID before the Marquess of Salisbury your letter of the 13th instant, and I am directed to express his Lordship's concurrence in the reply which Mr. Secretary Chamberlain proposes to return to the Governor-General of Canada respecting the Alaska Boundary Convention, informing his Excellency that the Dominion Government will be consulted before any modification of the Convention is agreed to by Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.  
(Signed) F. H. VILLIERS.



